

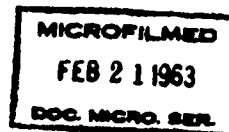
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CONFIDENTIAL  
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FBI

Date: December 9, 1950

To: Mr. Donald L. Nicholson  
Chief  
Division of Security  
Office of Consular Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.



From: John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: THE GRAND MUFTI, HAJAH EL HUSSEINI  
ALLEGED ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION PLOT  
MOSES SHARRETT - VICTIM  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

On December 7, 1950, Mr. Murray Dufeld, an attorney in New York City, and Mr. Arthur Lurie, Consul General of Israel, New York City, called at the New York Office of this Bureau to report the information set forth hereinafter.

Mr. Lurie advised that from an informant, whose name he did not desire to disclose, he had learned of an alleged plot, originating with the Grand Mufti who presently is in Jerusalem, to assassinate prominent Israeli officials and Zionist leaders. According to Mr. Lurie, his informant stated that the first victim was to be Moshe Sharrett, Foreign Minister of Israel, who presently is in New York City attending sessions of United Nations bodies.

Mr. Lurie identified Hajah El Hussaini as a representative of the Grand Mufti, presently attending United Nations sessions as an advisor to the Arab League. Mr. Lurie explained that a committee of the Arab League at the United Nations is acting as an observer on behalf of the various Arab countries.

The assassination plot, as related to Lurie by his informant, involves the recruitment of twelve individuals in various Arab countries who have dedicated themselves to assassinate prominent Israeli officials. Mr. Lurie stated that Hussaini is a distant cousin of the Grand Mufti and was in the United States in 1947 when he was in touch with various anti-Israeli groups.

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The purpose of the alleged plot is to bring the attention of the world to the Arab cause, according to Mr. Lurie. He pointed out that during the disturbances in Palestine between 1936 and 1939, the Grand Mufti had been responsible for the assassinations of many of his political opponents in the Arab Camp. He also pointed out that there have been several assassinations of high political figures in Europe within the past few years.

Mr. Lurie is of the impression that his informant received this information on December 5, 1950. He said it had been brought to his attention December 6, 1950. He does not believe that the twelve would-be assassins are presently in the United States, although one or more may be here. He said that a specific reference had been made to the assassination of Sharrett and that this had been brought to Mr. Sharrett's attention on the evening of December 6th. Prior to the time that Mr. Sharrett was advised of the alleged plot, however, he had requested a member of the Israeli delegation at the United Nations to ascertain the identity of one of the Arab delegates who had been staring at him fixedly. Mr. Sharrett reportedly was of the opinion that the Arab delegate was studying his features closely and commented at the time that it was unusual for an Arab to do a thing like this. Mr. Lurie reported this incident in view of the fact that the Arab involved was identified as Masceini.

It was suggested by Mr. Lurie that he himself might be a possible victim of an Arab assassination plot and that another possible victim might be Abba Eban, the present Israeli Ambassador to the United States who also is Chief Israeli Delegate to the United Nations.

Concerning his informant, Lurie advised that it was an Arab source and that at the present time he does not care to make the identity of this source known. He indicated that in general, reports of this source have been fairly accurate. He stated that the informant is in continuous touch with the situation and it might be possible that he will furnish additional pertinent information in the future.

The informant was said to have reported that Masceini has pointed out the relative ease with which Mr. Sharrett could be shot in the delegates' lounge in the United Nations building at Lake Success.

Mr. Garfain and Mr. Lurie were advised that the physical protection of individuals is a matter not within the jurisdiction of

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this Bureau. They stated that they contemplated bringing the matter to the attention of the Police Commissioner of New York City, and also appropriate police authorities in Nassau County, New York, where the United Nations building is located. They stated they would also advise Mr. Frank Bagley, Security Officer at Lake Success.

The above is being forwarded for your confidential information and such attention as you deem appropriate. No further action is contemplated by this Bureau.

In the event that additional pertinent information relating to the alleged attempted assassination plot against Israeli officials is received by this Bureau, it will be made available to you immediately.

cc: ✓ Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.  
Attention: Colonel Robert A. Schow  
Assistant Director

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